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INTRODUCTION.

In completing a second volume of the monthly organ of the American and Foreign Christian Union, it may be proper for its conductors to express their hope that this completion has not been reached without improvements in its value and increase in its usefulness. During the last few months our magazine has been deprived of the services of its editor, one of the Society's Corresponding Secretaries, who has been during that time in foreign countries on the service of the Society. It is not improbable that the variety and interest of its pages have suffered from this deprivation; yet, upon the whole, our readers have perhaps found little diminution in the real value of the articles in these numbers. Our endeavor has been to keep up a general survey of the events and influences bearing upon the great cause of Evangelical Protestantism, and at the same time to develop the fundamental principles of that cause itself, as they come up in the discussion with Romanism. At no previous time have these two departments of intelligence presented a more striking aspect than during the past year. The political and ecclesiastical excitement in England, relative to the Papal Aggression; the rapid diffusion of Gospel truth in Ireland; the influence of Jesuitism manifested in France; the propagation of Evangelical principles in Italy, in the face of bitter opposition from priest and prince: these, to say nothing of the cause in our own land, are topics of surpassing interest that have come up within the

twelve months just elapsed. On the other hand, the discussion of the great doctrines of Protestantism is evidently increasing in importance in the minds of Christians generally; standing out as it does, in the present state of things, as one of the most prominent branches of religious inquiry.

In the prosecution of our work we have endeavored to fill up the plan we proposed for ourselves at the outset of the year; namely, to give a general view of the State of Religion throughout Christendom abroad, the Condition of Evangelical Denominations in the Church at home, and the History and Progress of our own peculiar work, both Abroad and at Home. The first two of the series of articles to which we allude, have been lately interrupted by the editor's absence, but will be resumed on his return. The last-named class of subjects, we trust, has been faithfully and satisfactorily treated. All of them will be continued, should PROVIDENCE permit, with diligence, and in earnest desire for the blessing of GOD, the extension of whose cause is the one object of our work.

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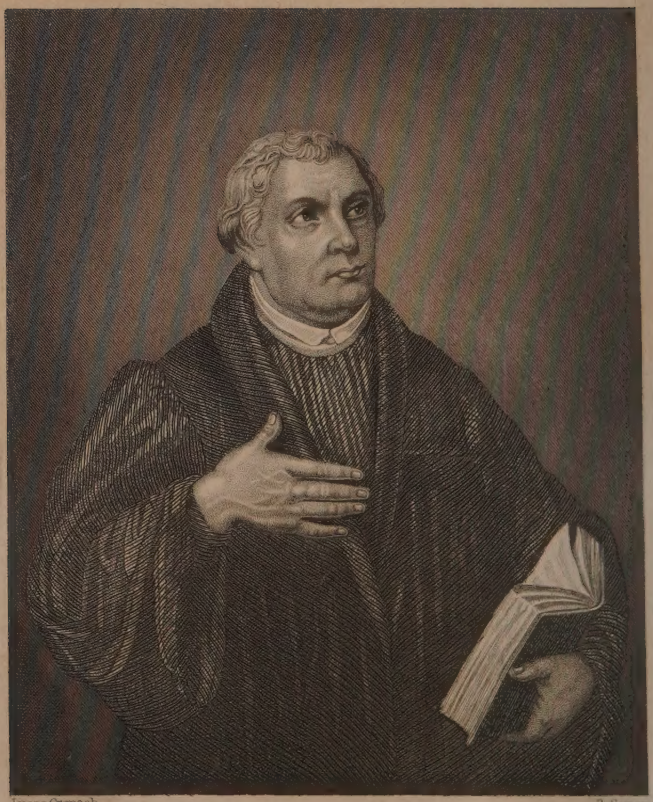

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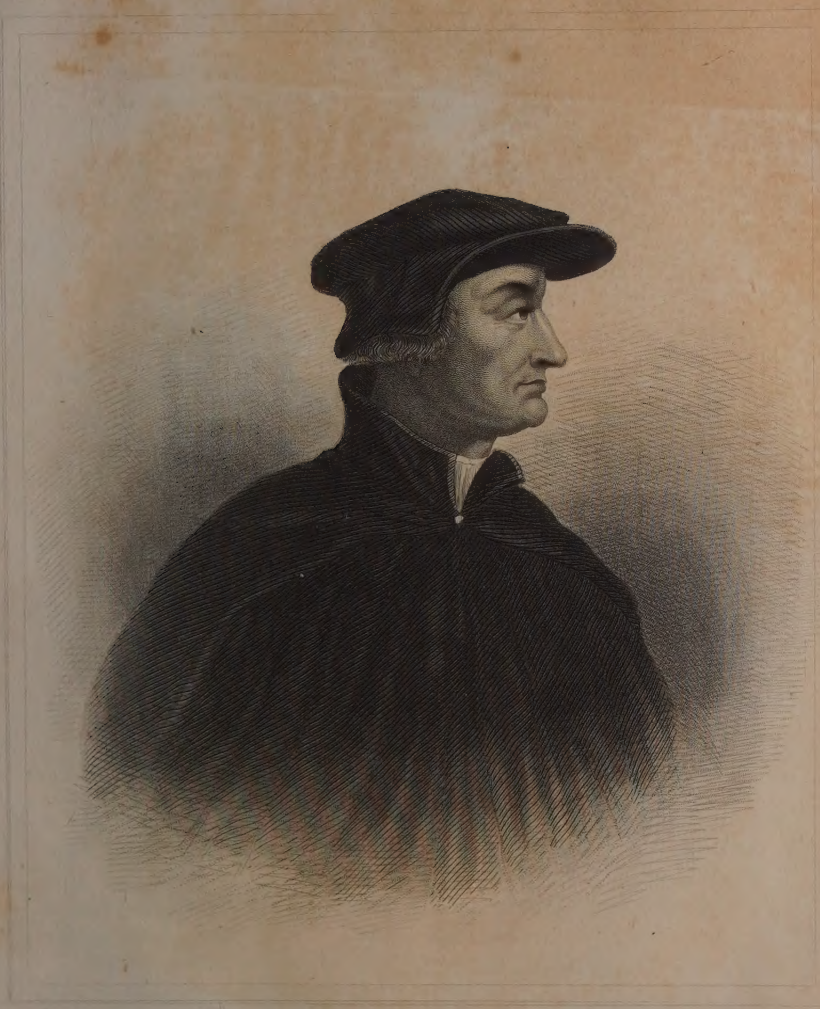

Ulric Zwingle